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THE VARIETY STAGE.

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THE VARIETY STAGE.

THE LONELY POLLYWOG

OF THE MILL-POND.

A SANGUINARY DRAMA

IN THREE SCENES.

By M. T. HEAD, Esq.

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THE LONELY POLLYWOG

OF THE MILL-POND.

——:o:——

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

TADPOLE WRIGGLE. *(The Lonely Pollywog; in love with* DORA MUSHEAD.*)*
SANGUINETTO STAB-IN-THE-DARK. *(A Ruffian—his rival.)*
GREAT-SCAMP. *(His friend and pitcher.)*
DORA MUSHEAD. *(The cause of all the trouble.)*

COSTUMES.

TADPOLE WRIGGLE.
SANGUINETTO STAB-IN-THE-DARK. } Burlesque Spanish Cavalier dress.
GREAT-SCAMP.
DORA MUSHEAD.—White muslin dress.

PROPERTIES.

Handkerchief. Swords for POLLYWOG, SANGUINETTO, and GREAT-SCAMP. Dummy made up to represent DORA MUSHEAD. Red fire.

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*** There is no charge for the performance of this sketch.

THE LONELY POLLYWOG

OF THE MILL-POND.

SCENE I.—*A Mill-pond by moonlight; the pond dried up and the mill partly carried away. The moon rising behind a very dark cloud. Thunder and lightning.*

Enter SANGUINETTO, R.

San. Ha, ha, ha! Methinks the moon behind yon murky cloud withholds her light—withholds her light? Ha! ha! Why then, methinks, she something has to hold it with. Would she would let it drop, that it might grow so dark that we might say, you cannot see your hand before your face. I've got a deed to do, no eye must see. The hour of my revenge has come, and will be here anon. The Lonely Pollywog too long has thrown his shadow 'cross my path, and he must be disposed of. The lovely Dora Mushead must be mine. *(Crosses to* L.C.*)* Ha! who comes here? *(Draws his sword.*

Enter GREAT-SCAMP, R.

G. S. 'Tis be—your fred and bitcher.

San. My fred! Alas! I have no fred—and as for bitcher, such word know I not.

G. S. I said not fred and bitcher, but your fred and bitcher.

San. Well, I know you did. Away! I know you not.

G. S. Dot do me? Bud you bust. I'm Gread-Scab.

San. *(With a start.)* Ha! art he? How changed thou art; methinks thy speech is changed. Ha! I see how 'tis; my worthy friend has wandered in the noisome damps of this dark, dingy, direful, dirty, desperate spot, till—till he has caught a cold 'i the head. Is't not so, my Great-Scamp? Here, use my wipe.

(GREAT-SCAMP *blows his nose.* SANGUINETTO *weeps.*

San. You see me moved, my friend. I'll tell you why. That trumpet tone of thine, which sounded when you blew your nose, like to the challenge which some herald blows ere conquering knights rush to the tournament, reminded me of her—my mother.

G. S. Thy bother?

San. No, not my bother, but my mother. I had one once. Alas! she died one day from something which she used to drink from out a large black bottle. But to my tale. One day my sainted mother and myself were wandering hand in hand—'twas somewhere near this very spot. The air was damp and chill, and noisome exhalations rose from out the earth, and greeted the olfactories most pungently. Noting this fact, my sainted mother, turning to her boy, asked in a melting accent what it was that smelt so; 'twas quite too much, she said, for her poor nerves to bear; what can it be? the smell o'erpowered her. The smell, I said, dear mother, yes, I know what tis, I cried, while fear of spanking filled my eye, and made my bosom swell—it is, I cried, the sad remains of our old tabby cat; she angered me, and so I slew her, as I slay all my enemies, and as I'll slay the Pollywog. My mother wept, but spanked me not; howbeit, ere night herself got slewed on juice of juniper. *(With a sudden start.)* Methinks I see her now, my Great-Scamp.

G. S. Where, my fred?

San. Alas! 'tis all my eye. *(Weeps.*

G. S. No bore, no bore, it is doo butch.

(Weeps hysterically on SANGUINETTO'S *shoulder.*

San. But come! away with weakness! *(Pushes* GREAT-SCAMP *away with such force as to knock him down.)* Hast seen the Lonely Pollywog?

G. S. *(Picks himself up and strikes an attitude.)* I hast! As now I wandered by his disbal ded, the bull-frog hooted, and the night-owl screeched; while he, high on a rail, low perched upon the ground, sat driking lager beer.

San. Ha! sayest thou so? This night he takes his bier indeed. Let me but meet him once in combat fell, down to the darking shades that brightly gleam on high I'll send him! Out, my good sword, and ne'er shalt thou be sheathed till in his heart, ay, in his very gizzard, deep thy point lies buried. Come on, my Great-Scamp, What ho, there, Pollywog, 'tis I, thy foe! This night or thou or I must bite the dust! *(Exeunt* L.

SCENE II.—*The Hut of* POLLYWOG.

POLLYWOG *discovered asleep upon a soft Plank* C.

Pol. *(In his sleep.)* Off, off, ye goblin fiends! let go your grip upon my abdomen. *(Comes down to the footlights.)* Ha, do I dream? methought the spirits of my last night's supper came througing round me, crying out for vengeance. Chickens boiled and fricasseed, ay, roasted too, opened their mouths and cackled at me threateningly. A round of cold corned beef sat on my chest, like to a weight of lead, and huge cowcumbers reared their mammoth forms above my head and seemed like giant clubs impending o'er my

brains, to dash them out. And then methought a wind arose, and I was suddenly a keg of lager bier, tossed on Monongahela's treacherous waves, running dread risks of snags and riffles, till my bung came out, and I awoke to find, alas! that in my dream I'd kicked the corn cob from my whiskey jug, and with the pleasant distillation damped my virgin sheets. Alas, the day! But I must forth. The coon is on the march in search of pokeberries, and the opossum curls up himself and munches the persimmons. I'll seek my Dora Mushead.

(Exit L.

SCENE III.—*A gloomy glen, with trees growing out of the bare rocks, or rocks growing out of bare trees, just as is most convenient to the scenic artist.*

A scream is heard, and DORA MUSHEAD *rushes on* R., *her hair disheveled. She stares madly around.*

D. M. Ah, let me go—the moon is round and fair, and by her light I'll wander forth to seek my Pollywog. Ha! where am I? all alone in the dark wood. Oh, heavens support me—I'm a helpless maid. If Sanguinetto now should be abroad, and meet me in this gloomy glen, I'd be past hope.

Enter SANGUINETTO *and* GREAT-SCAMP, *stealthily,* L.

D. M. Let me haste home for I must milk the cows.

(Turns and sees SANGUINETTO *and* GREAT-SCAMP—*shrieks and falls fainting to the earth.*

San. Ha! ha! ha!

G. S. Ha! ha! ha!

San. At last my Dora Mushead, you are mine. *(Runs to her and picks her up.)* Yes, mine, I clasp thee in my arms, and never shall thou from these arms depart; no, never! never! *never!* NEVER MORE! *(Crosses to* R.

G. S. Dever bore.

San. Come! quick! away!

As he is making off with DORA MUSHEAD *in his arms,* POLLYWOG *enters* L. *and intercepts them.*

San. Ha! 'tis he!

Pol. Ha! 'tis she!

G. S. Ha! 'tis hib.

Pol. *(Maliciously.)* Villain!

G. S. *(Sarcastically.)* Boy!

Pol. Ha! calls't thou me boy—I'll show thee I'm a man. Let go that beateous maid, whose pure and taper waist thy arm pollutes, and if thou art not coward, as thou art a knave, seize on thy sword and guard thyself; thy time has come.

G. S. Ha! ha! think'st thou to frighten me with these big words? I pray thee go to grass—or if thou likest not that, then go to him thou call'st thy master, and toast thyself before his sulphurous fire. Out of my way! *(Tries to run off.*

Pol. Thou dost not stir—unhand the maiden.

*(*POLLYWOG *attempts to seize* DORA; SANGUINETTO *retreats to* S.E.L., *and exits with* DORA, POLLYWOG *following. They immediately re-enter with Dummy,* POLLYWOG *holding by the feet, while* SANGUINETTO *grasps Dummy around the waist. A desperate struggle ensues, in the course of which the Dummy is pulled in two.*

Pol. Ha! what hast thou done? Now, villan, draw thy sword.

San. *(Draws.)* Come on, the whole or none. I'll ne'er contented be with half a maid.

Pol. Ay, that's the word—a maid entire, or none at all.

(Terrific combat. SANGUINETTO *is slain.* GREAT-SCAMP *continues the combat, and is at length run through the body, and drops for dead.* POLLYWOG *casts himself prostrate upon the upper half of* DORA MUSHEAD, *and stabs himself with his sword.* GREAT-SCAMP *gets up, surveys the field, and crawls to* SANGUINETTO, *heaves a deep sigh, and falls heavily on* SANGUINETTO, *and after two or three convulsive starts, expires. Red fire. Slow music.*

CURTAIN.

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